

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 /086 W

-----088336 231856Z /47

R 231300Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 758

INFO USMISSION USNATO

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0759

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: NATO, DM, CU

SUBJ: CUBAN PERSONNEL TO BENIN

REF: USNATO 5024 (NOTAL)

1. FOR THE PAST NINE MONTHS WE HAVE HEARD RUMORS THAT UP TO 1500 CUBAN MILITARY AND TECHNICAL ADVISORS WOULD BE COMING TO BENIN. ALTHOUGH AS YET WE HAVE SEEN NO MANIFESTATIONS OF A MAJOR INCREASE -- THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 40 CUBAN MILITARY AND TECHNICAL ADVISORS IN BENIN AT THE PRESENT TIME -- WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CUBA SENDING LARGE NUMBERS OF ADVISORS TO ASSIST IN "EDUCATING" THE CIVILIAN MILITIA IN RURAL DISTRICTS. GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN (GPRB) HAS BEEN NOTABLY UNSUCCESSFUL IN INSTILLING REVOLUTIONARY CONSCIOUSNESS IN BENINESE OUTSIDE OF ECONOMIC CAPITAL OF COTONOU, AND MAY INDEED FIND THAT IT REQUIRES CUBAN ASSISTANCE TO ERADICATE THE "FEUDAL" MENTALITY WHICH PREVAILS ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY.

2. BELIEVE INFO PASSED BY CANADIAN REP TO USMISSION NATO ORIGINATED WITH A BENINESE CABINET MINISTER. AN OFFICER OF THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN ACCRA RECENTLY CITED SAME FIGURES, CONFIDENTIAL

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I.E., 1500-3000, AS NUMBER OF CUBANS POSSIBLY COMING TO BENIN.

3. CUBAN AMB RAUL GOVEA SALLES WAS ABSENT FROM BENIN FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, REPORTEDLY IN HAVANA WHILE HIS WIFE UNDERWENT MEDICAL TREATMENT. GOVEA WAS BACK IN TOWN IN TIME FOR RECEPTION FOR CONGO PRESIDENT YHOMBI OPANGO MAY 19 AND,

AS USUAL, WAS GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION BY BENINESE CABINET  
MINISTERS AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS. IF DEPARTMENT HAS ANY  
INFORMATION ON SPECIFICS OF GOVEA'S CONSULTATIONS IN HAVANA,  
WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING OF THEM.  
THOMPSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978COTON000759  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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